

an important role in the lives of the residents of our city. I am proud of the fact that in 1977, I received an Associates Degree from the El Paso Community College. The El Paso Community College continues to provide educational opportunities and support services that prepare individuals to improve their quality of life. I applaud the role that this institution has played in El Paso and the leadership, dedication, and service that Dr. Dominguez has provided to this school and its students.

At the dawn of this new century, I see community colleges such as the El Paso Community College as playing a critical role. I believe that community colleges must expand and become more accessible to all people who desire personal enrichment, growth, and development. Over the years, community colleges have assisted many people who would otherwise not have access to higher education by providing them with quality, affordable education. It is critically important to give our students every opportunity to compete in this new global economy. I applaud the efforts and the work that Dr. Dominguez has contributed to further these goals and the role that El Paso Community College continues to play in the fabric of El Paso.

Dr. Dominguez has guided the El Paso Community College well. I know that this institution will continue to flourish and educate future generations of El Pasoans. Dr. Dominguez is a pillar of integrity in the El Paso community and I want to thank him on behalf of El Paso and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

INTERNET GAMBLING BILL

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Internet Gambling Bill introduced on November 1, 2001. This important legislation, authored by Representative GOODLATTE, provides a much-needed update to existing law, which is no longer adequate to prohibit gambling on the Internet.

Minors can easily use the Internet to access illegal content, including Internet gambling websites. This is a dangerous loophole to existing law. Gambling is a potentially addictive habit which should be restricted to adults.

As technology continues to change the way we communicate and learn we must ensure that our laws change and adapt concurrently. Regulations previously used to prevent gambling over telephone lines are no longer sufficient to address gambling over the Internet, which increasingly relies on wireless communications. The Internet Gambling Bill modernizes existing law by bringing the current prohibition against interstate gambling up to speed with the development of new technology.

This important legislation also defines gambling more specifically to include interactive games on the Internet, including poker and blackjack which are not clearly included in current law. Violations under the act are punishable by prison terms of up to five years.

Gambling on the Internet has become increasingly prevalent in recent years. More than 650 Internet gambling websites operated just last year. In 1999, the total revenue asso-

ciated with Internet gambling exceeded \$1.2 billion, an 80 percent increase from the previous year.

It is time to stop illegal gambling on the Internet. This legislation is an important first step.

DEDICATION OF THE PURPLE HEART MONUMENT IN PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 522 of Paramus, New Jersey, as they dedicate a Purple Heart Monument today in Paramus. In this time of remembrance for those killed on September 11th, it is important to remember all who have put their lives on the line for our nation. Our nation's veterans offer us wisdom and guidance in these troubled times. I thank Chapter 522 for honoring our veterans as we support and defend our country in this new war.

Decades ago, President Ronald Reagan addressed the Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. His words were profound: "No one wants peace more than the soldier, for the soldier understands better than anyone, the pain and destruction of war." Implicit in his message is that preserving the peace is an everyday job. It's a job that requires hard work. It's a job that requires firm resolution. It's a job that absolutely requires sacrifice.

I stand here today and honor the Military Order of the Purple Heart with great pride. These are the Americans who have done the hard work. Who have displayed the firm resolution. Who have sacrificed. These are our nation's heroes.

As we commemorate those who have fought for our country with this Purple Heart Monument, the eyes of the nation turn to the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Our nation thanks you.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Chapter 522 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and all who have served and those who have died for our country. May God bless them and God bless America.

67TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE FAMINE AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINIAN HELSINKI GROUP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the memory of innocent victims of an abominable act perpetrated against the people of Ukraine in 1932-33. Seven million innocent men, women and children were murdered so that one man, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, could consolidate control over Ukraine. The Ukrainian people resisted the Soviet policy of forced collectivization. The innocent died a horrific death at the

hands of a tyrannical dictatorship which had crushed their freedom.

In an attempt to break the spirit of an independent-minded and nationally-conscious Ukrainian peasantry, and ultimately to secure collectivization, Stalin ordered the expropriation of all foodstuffs in the hands of the rural population. The grain was shipped to other areas of the Soviet Union or sold on the international market. Peasants who refused to turn over grain to the state were deported or executed. Without food or grain, mass starvation ensued. This manmade famine was the consequence of deliberate policies which aimed to destroy the political, cultural and human rights of the Ukrainian people. In short, food was used as a weapon in what can only be described as an organized act of terrorism designed to suppress a people's love of their land and the basic liberty to live as they choose.

This month also marks an important milestone in more recent Ukrainian history. Twenty-five years ago, on November 9, 1976, 10 courageous men and women formed the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords. The work of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group focused on monitoring human rights violations and on the Ukrainian national question as an integral component of human rights issues. The Ukrainian Helsinki Group eventually became the largest of its kind among similar groups in the Soviet Union, but also the most repressed by the Soviet regime. Of the 37 Ukrainians who eventually joined the Group, virtually all were subjected to lengthy terms in labor camps and internal exile. Three—Oleksiy Tykhy, Yuri Lytvyn and Vasyl Stus—died in the mid-1980s while serving camp terms under extremely harsh conditions. Their courageous, active commitment to human rights and freedom for the people of Ukraine laid the foundation for the historic achievement of Ukrainian independence in 1991.

As we honor the memory of the millions of innocent victims of the Ukrainian Famine, let us also not forget to honor the work and, in some instances, the martyrdom, of the valiant members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

While similar atrocities are highly unlikely, Ukraine has yet to realize its full democratic potential. Despite the real progress made in the decade since independence, the unsolved murders of Georgiy Gongadze and other journalists and political figures, the assaults on media freedoms, the pervasive corruption, and the lack of respect for the rule of law demonstrate a democratic deficit that must be overcome. An independent, sovereign, democratic Ukraine—in which respect for the dignity of human beings is the cornerstone—is the best guarantee that the horrors of the last century become truly inconceivable.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT RONALD A. GISEL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Technical Sergeant Ronald Gisel as one of this year's U.S. Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.